

**COLUSA COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Minutes of Public Meeting

July 11, 2000

A meeting of the Advisory Council for the Colusa County Children and Families Commission was held from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Colusa Indian Community Center, 50 Wintun Road, Colusa, California. Present: Charlette Lauppe, Helen Fink, Nancy Parriott, Kevin Wheeler, Rebecca Martinez, Nolan Gonzales, Christy Scofield, Sandy Huff, Bonnie Wilson, Lorna Smallwood, Susan Rawlins, Barbara Hankins, Rosa Bautista, Peggi Cooney, Judy Anderson, Carole Ricci, Ben Balatbat.

Items discussed and actions taken in accordance with the publicly-posted agenda were as follows:

1. Introductions

Colusa County Children and Families Commission Chairperson Christy Scofield started the meeting with group introductions and then turned facilitation over to Mike Smith, consultant from Social Entrepreneurs, Inc.

2. Review of information prepared on the topic of Improved Family Functioning

The group reviewed the materials distributed for the purpose of developing specific strategies for the two previously identified goals and their related objectives. The materials included Goals and Objectives, Community Needs and Interests, and Potential Strategies to Consider. The goals and objectives that were the focus of the meeting:

Goal 1.1 Parents and other caregivers are prepared and supported to fulfill their roles in developing healthy, happy, resilient and well-adjusted children.

Objective 1.1.1 Promote community-based, accessible parent education. "Community-based" means that services are available in or near each community in the county. "Accessible" includes education during hours and in languages that enable parents and caregivers to use the services.

Goal 1.2 Communities work together to promote and support parental involvement and cooperation. This goal explicitly seeks cross-cultural involvement and cooperation, leading to whole communities that demonstrate a strong commitment to the well-being of children and families.

Objective 1.2.1 Develop playgroups or other forums in each community that enable parents to support each other.

Objective 1.2.2 Expand the number of public areas with age-appropriate play equipment for children age 0-5 in each community.

In reviewing the information, several existing and emerging resources were identified:

- Toddler-age play equipment has been installed at the Head Start sites in Colusa and Arbuckle, as well as the Migrant Center in Williams. The sites in Colusa and Arbuckle are open to the public, providing another option for local play areas.

- Parenting classes are currently available from several sources. Behavioral Health Services offers a 12-class series totaling 30 hours that meet court requirements, with classes held in the evening. Healthy Start in Arbuckle offers parenting classes. Yuba College has courses in child development and foster care that have excellent parenting information.
- Head Start conducts home visits that include parenting support elements for income-eligible parents of children age 3-5.

1. Identify and prioritize the strategies that should be pursued in Colusa County in order to achieve the objectives in the area of Improved Family Functioning

The group brainstormed a variety of potential strategies and identified which objective(s) each addressed. After listing the strategies the group prioritized them into their "A" list. Prioritization was done by having each person vote for their top seven action priorities. The results are shown in the following table (total votes are out of 17 possible).

Votes	Obj.	Strategy
13	1.2.1	Provide assistance in forming and/or sustaining playgroups, parent co-ops and other such forums to bring parents together in each community for mutual support.
12	1.1.1	Provide intensive home visitation and in-home support for parents, such as the Cal-SAHF model that uses multidisciplinary teams (nursing, CPS, other social services) to provide training and support for home visits
12	1.1.1	Provide incentives (such as items for children, food vouchers, car seats, strollers, etc), transportation, and personal phone calls / invitations to increase attendance at parent education programs
11	1.1.1	Offer programs and incentives specifically to involve dads in parenting; link these efforts to ESL and citizenship classes
10	1.1.1	Offer workshops on individual topics for parenting
8	1.2.2	Add / upgrade age-appropriate play equipment in existing community parks for children ages 0-5
8	1.2.1	Enhance library-based programs to bring families together and offer family activities and parent education
6	1.2.1	Involve churches in sponsoring family activities
5	1.1.1, 1.2.1	Involve grandparents, surrogate parents, and other caregivers in family activities and parent education
3	1.1.1	Provide parenting information / kits for home use by parents, such as the "Parents Who Care" model or the parent kit being developed by the State Children and Families Commission
3	1.2.1	Promote community involvement in beautification efforts
3	1.2.1	Sponsor potluck dinners and other events to help parents form "clusters"
2	1.1.1	Enhance parenting programs to use "graduate" parents as mentors and trainers
2	1.1.1	Recruit seniors and other volunteers to act as mentors / support resources for parents, such as the Janet Levy Center model at CSU Chico
1	1.1.1	Use the local libraries and mobile library lab for parent outreach and education
1	1.2.2	Offer activities for young children through schools, parks, etc.
1	1.1.1	Expand / promote child development / parenting classes through Yuba College
0	1.1.1	Offer child care to anyone who attends parent education programs

1. For high priority strategies, identify potential partnerships

All strategies with 5 or more votes were designated as the "A" list. The group then identified partners for each strategy, representing organizations or groups that can play an important role in the success of the strategy. The strategies and initial list of potential partners are captured in the following table.

Obj.	Strategy	Partners
1.2.1	Provide assistance in forming and/or sustaining play groups, parent co-ops and other such forums to bring parents together in each community for mutual support.	Head Start, Healthy Start, Grimes Moms Club, schools, interns from CSU Chico, Parks and Recreation, Migrant Center, child care providers, Perinatal Outreach & Education, apartment complexes
1.1.1	Provide intensive home visitation and in-home support for parents, such as the Cal-SAHF model that uses multidisciplinary teams (nursing, CPS, other social services) to provide training and support home visits	Head Start, Health & Human Services (including Public Health Nurses and Child Protective Services), Behavioral Health Services, Migrant Education
1.1.1	Provide incentives (such as items for children, food vouchers, car seats, strollers, etc), transportation, and personal phone calls / invitations to increase attendance at parent education programs	Service clubs and churches to help obtain incentives, local businesses for donations and support, Public Health's car seat program, Colusa Transit for transportation, Maternal & Child Health program for giveaways, Behavioral Health Services, Head Start, Yuba College, Migrant Education, California Children and Families Commission for parent kits and other resources
1.1.1	Offer programs and incentives specifically to involve dads in parenting; link these efforts to ESL and citizenship classes	ESL, Migrant Education, Yuba College, churches, parenting program at the jail, Parks & Recreation, local sports programs (Little League, AYSO soccer, etc.), Behavioral Health Services, local media, child care providers
1.1.1	Offer workshops on individual topics for parenting	Migrant Education, Adult Education, Yuba College, Behavioral Health Services, school districts, libraries, Sheriff Department's community-oriented policing program, Health & Human Services, Children's Services, local media, churches, child care providers, Del Norte Clinics and other health care providers, Colusa Hospital
1.2.2	Add / upgrade age-appropriate play equipment in existing community parks for children ages 0-5	Parks & Recreation, service clubs and businesses for support, schools, volunteers (community members), grants, "Pennies for Parks" campaign and individual sponsorships to solicit donations
1.2.1	Enhance library-based programs to bring families together and offer family activities and parent education	Libraries, Office of Education, law enforcement, Children's Services, volunteers, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Domestic Violence Task Force, Yuba College
1.2.1	Involve churches in sponsoring family activities	Churches, pastoral councils, law enforcement chaplains program, Young Life, diocese, Catholic Social Services (in Yuba City and Chico), Salvation Army (in Yuba City)
1.1.1, 1.2.1	Involve grandparents, surrogate parents, and other caregivers in family activities and parent education	Schools, churches, senior center, Parks & Recreation, libraries, Sheriff Department's Senior Volunteers program, Pink Ladies, Retired Teacher's Association

The next Advisory Council meeting will be held on July 25 in Williams and focuses on setting strategies for Improved Child Health: Healthy Children. Mike Smith will prepare an agenda for the meeting and get notices out to everyone.

The meeting concluded at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Mike Smith, consultant to the Colusa County Children and Families Commission.